

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (original): An isolated and purified mammalian fatty-acid amide hydrolase (FAAH) Isolated fatty-acid amide that hydrolyzes *cis*-9,10-octadecenoamide, anandamide, myristic amide, palmitic amide and stearic amide.

Claims 2-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): The FAAH of claim 1 wherein said FAAH is characterized by inclusion of an amino acid sequence selected from a group consisting of:

- a.) GGSSGGEGALIGSGGSPLGLGTDIGGSIRFP (SEQ ID NO 5),
- b.) SPGGSSGGEGALIGS (SEQ ID NO 6),
- c.) ALIGSGGSPLGLGTD (SEQ ID NO 7),
- d.) GLGTDIGGSIRFPSA (SEQ ID NO 8),
- e.) RFPSAFCGICGLKPT (SEQ ID NO 9),
- f.) GLKPTGNRLSKSGLK (SEQ ID NO 10),
- g.) KSGLKGCVYGQTAVQ (SEQ ID NO 11),
- h.) QTAVQLSLGPMARDV (SEQ ID NO 12),
- i.) MARDVESLALCLKAL (SEQ ID NO 13),
- j.) CLKALLCEHLFTLDP (SEQ ID NO 14),
- k.) FTLDPTVPPFPFREE (SEQ ID NO 15),
- l.) PFREEVYRSSRPLRV (SEQ ID NO 16),

- m.) RPLRVGYETDNYTM (SEQ ID NO 17),
- n.) DNYTMPSPAMRRALI (SEQ ID NO 18),
- o.) RRALIETKQRLEAAG (SEQ ID NO 19),
- p.) LEAAGHTLIPFLPNN (SEQ ID NO 20),
- q.) FLPNNIPYALEVLSA (SEQ ID NO 21),
- r.) EVLSAGGLFSDGGRS (SEQ ID NO 22),
- s.) DGGRSFLQNFKGDFV (SEQ ID NO 23),
- t.) KGDFVDPCLGDLILI (SEQ ID NO 24),
- u.) DLILILRLPSWFKRL (SEQ ID NO 25),
- v.) WFKRLLSLLLKPLFP (SEQ ID NO 26),
- w.) KPLFPRLAAFLNSMR (SEQ ID NO 27),
- x.) LNSMRPRSAEKLWKL (SEQ ID NO 28),
- y.) KLWKLQHEIEMYRQS (SEQ ID NO 29),
- z.) MYRQSVIAQWKAMNL (SEQ ID NO 30),
- aa.) KAMNLDVLLTPMLGP (SEQ ID NO 31), and
- ab.) PMLGPALDLNTPGR (SEQ ID NO 32).

Claim 6 (original): The FAAH of claim 1 wherein said FAAH is isolated from a mammal.

Claim 7 (original): The FAAH of claim 1 wherein said FAAH is produced by expression of a recombinant DNA expression vector that includes the nucleotide sequence that encodes FAAH having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID Nos 35, 39 and 42.

Claim 8 (original): The FAAH of claim 1 wherein said FAAH is isolated by purification by a chromatographic methodology selected from a group consisting of affinity chromatography, electric chromatography, gel filtration chromatography, ion exchange chromatography, and partition chromatography.

Claim 9 (original): The FAAH of claim 8 wherein said affinity chromatography employs a solid phase absorbant derivatized with a trifluoroketone inhibitor of FAAH for adsorbing the FAAH.

Claim 10 (original): The FAAH of claim 1 wherein said FAAH is isolated by purification as follows:

Step A: a crude source of FAAH is purified by exchange chromatography using a DEAE chromatography column to form a first elution product; then

Step B: the first elution product of said Step A is further purified by elution on an Hg affinity chromatography column to form a second elution product; then

Step C: the second elution product of said Step B is further purified by elution on a Heparin affinity chromatography column to form a third elution product; and then

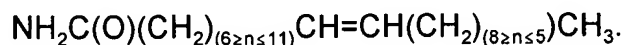
Step D: the elution product of said Step C is further purified by elution on an affinity chromatography column derivatized with a trifluoroketone inhibitor of FAAH to form the purified form of FAAH.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A method for catalyzing a hydrolysis of a fatty-acid primary amide comprising the step of contacting the fatty-acid primary amide under reaction conditions with a catalytic amount of an isolated FAAH described in claim 1.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The method for catalyzing a hydrolysis of a fatty-acid primary amide according to claim 11 wherein the fatty-acid primary amide includes an alkyl chain having an unsaturation.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The method for catalyzing a hydrolysis of a fatty-acid primary amide according to claim 12 wherein the unsaturation is in an alkyl chain having a *cis* configuration.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method for catalyzing a hydrolysis of a fatty-acid primary amide according to claim 11 wherein the fatty-acid primary amide is selected from the group consisting of *cis*-9,10-octadecenoamide, *cis*-8,9-octadecenoamide, *cis*-11,12-octadecenoamide, *cis*-13,14- docosenoamide, and a fatty-acid primary amide having the formula:

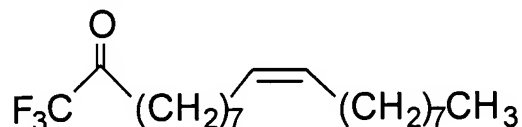


Claim 15 (withdrawn): A method for inhibiting an enzymatically catalyzed hydrolysis of a fatty-acid primary amide by the FAAH of claim 1, the method comprising the step of contacting said FAAH with an inhibitor of the FAAH.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method of claim 15 wherein said fatty-acid primary amide substrate is selected from the group consisting of *cis*-9,10-octadecenoamide, anandamide, myristic amide, palmitic amide and stearic amide.

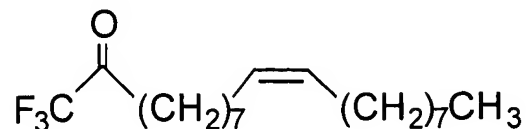
Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 15 wherein said fatty-acid primary amide is *cis*-9,10-octadecenoamide.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of claim 15 wherein said inhibitor of FAAH is selected from the group consisting of phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, HgCl_2 , and a trifluoroketone having the following structure:



Claims 19 and 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A trifluoroketone inhibitor of fatty-acid amide hydrolase represented by following structure:



Claim 22 (withdrawn): A nucleic acid molecule encoding a fatty-acid amide hydrolase protein, said nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO 35, SEQ ID NO 39 and SEQ ID NO 42.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): A nucleic acid molecule encoding a portion of a fatty-acid amide hydrolase protein, said nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO 1:1-783.

Claim 24 (new): The mammalian fatty-acid amide hydrolase of claim 1 that is a human fatty-acid amide hydrolase.